GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2581
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
IMPORTED SEEDS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is importing seeds for agro products with a view to improve the domestic productions;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise, crop-wise, value-wise;

(c) whether the Government has placed any mechanism to monitor the quality of those mported seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the monitoring agency has confronted with low quality of seeds that have been imported;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such import?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has a mechanism to monitor the quality of imported seeds.

(d) Import of seeds is governed under the EXIM Policy read with the new policy on Seed Development, 1988. All the imports are subject to Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, and amendment made therein. Initially, import of seed of small quantity is allowed for in-house trails by the importer for multi-locational testing under the All India Coordinated Trails of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR). The new variety is tested for one crop season in ICAR's multi-locational trials. The results of the trials and evaluation are communicated to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation with 3 months of the end of the crop season. If the performance of the variety is found to be satisfactory in the multi-locational trials, the importer can apply for bulk import of the seeds of the new variety. Bulk import of seed of a new variety that has performed satisfactorily in ICAR trials are allowed only for a period of 2 year. Within this period the importer must make arrangements for commercial multiplication of the seed in India through transfer to parental lines or breeder seed and the seed production technology. Bulk imports are not permitted beyond a period of 2 years.

(e) No such incident has been reported.

(f) & (g) Do not arise.